

UNIT VICTIM ADVOCATE (UVA) RESPONSIBILITIES

- Unit Victim Advocates (UVA). UVA is one of two Soldiers who is appointed on orders by each Battalion level commander and trained to perform collateral duties in support of victims of sexual assault. UVAs are supervised in the performance of their duties by the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC). The UVA will be an NCO (SSG or higher), or Officer (1LT/WO2 or higher). UVAs will—
 - When assigned by the SARC, provide crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to the sexual assault victim. In the case of multiple victims, each victim should have a Victim Advocate (IVA or UVA). The victim alone will decide whether to accept the offer of victim advocacy services.
 - Report to and coordinate directly with the SARC or designated IVA when assigned to assist a victim of sexual assault.
 - Attend annual and ongoing training.
 - Inform victims of the options to use service providers (e.g., medical, legal, and chaplain) and resources available to victims.
 - Provide support to the victim throughout the medical, investigative, and judicial process; however, a victim may opt to seek assistance without the presence or assistance of the UVA. The UVA will exercise sensitivity with regard to the victim at all times, but will not counsel the victim. The UVA will accompany the victim, at the victim's request, during investigative interviews and medical examinations. The UVA's mission is to support, assist and guide the victim through the process. The UVA is not to make decisions for the victim or to speak for the victim, or to interfere with the legitimate operations of medical, investigative and judicial processes.
 - Safeguard documents pertaining to sexual assault incidents while in the possession custody of the UVA and protect information that is case related.
 - Complete a report on sexual assault as prescribed by the SARC.